BOROUGH OF HOVE.

Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR

1905,

ON THE

HEALTH OF THE TOWN,

BY

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Medical Officer of Health for Hove.

TOWN HALL, HOVE.

Hove:
Emery & Son, Ltd., "Gazette" Office, 170 Church Road.

SANITARY COMMITTEE, 1905-1906.

The Mayor (Mr. Councillor Bruce Morison).

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,, ,, Baker.
,, ,, Hobhouse.
,, ,, Humphrey.

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,, ,, Waghorn.

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Medical Officer of Health:

A. Griffith, M.D., D.P.H. (London).

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H. Herriott, A.S.I.

Assistant Inspectors of Nuisances:

H. Bousfield, H. G. Clark, and H. C. Simpson.

Clerk:

H. J. W. Jupp.

Borough of Hove.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR 1905.

To the Sanitary Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

The year 1905 has not been marked by any striking occurrences relating to the Public Health; it has, nevertheless, been one of steady work and progress.

The death-rate was 12·9, almost the same as for 1904; the birth-rate showed a further fall, being 16·7, the lowest yet recorded for Hove; the mortality rate among infants was the same as the average of the last ten years; the reported cases of infectious diseases were much fewer than the average.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Soil.—Chalk, brick earth, or clay—very variable.

Height above Sea-level.—From 190 feet to 22 feet at the sea-wall.

Number of Acres.--1,594.75.

Population (estimated to the middle of the year), 40,169.

Water Supply.—The whole district is supplied by the Brighton Corporation. The water, which is derived from the upper chalk strata, is of absolute purity; and though rather hard, is less so than many of the London waters, containing under 12½ grains of chalk per gallon, nearly all of which is removed by boiling.

Sewerage.—The sewerage system is an excellent one, and in spite of very heavy downpours of rain, I have not heard of any nuisance from the sewers being overfull. The usual flushing has been carried out at regular intervals.

An extensive scheme has been approved by the Local Government Board for altering and completing the sewerage of the Parish of Aldrington. The sewage of the whole parish with the exception of a small area, will then join that of Hove parish, and of Brighton, and will be discharged into the sea to the East of Rottingdean.

House Refuse.—House refuse is removed twice weekly during the summer months, and once weekly during the rest of the year: the removal is carried out by a contractor, who deposits the refuse in an uninhabited part of the Borough, and subsequently disposes of the greater part of it for use in brick making.

The Sanitary movable bin has replaced the old ashpit in many houses during the year: and in others the ashpits have been improved. The contractor's men sprinkle the bins and ashpits with quicklime after they are emptied, a proceeding which has proved very satisfactory to the residents, and should certainly be continued.

The number of loads of refuse removed during the year was:—

January ...	1,265	July ...	1,115
February ...	1,150	August ...	1,020
March ...	1,158	September	1,035
April ...	1,090	October ...	1,073
May ...	1,160	November	1,142
June ...	1,100	December	1,165

The total quantity was 13,473 loads, that for 1904 being 13,040.

House Accommodation.—There has been no decrease in the number of houses erected, as shown in the table below. The modern tendency to prefer living in flats has in recent years brought about the erection of specially arranged houses for all classes, and the alteration of some older houses. Besides the large luxurious flats, none of which suffer from the want of light and air which characterises them in some towns, small houses of two flats only have been erected for the middle and poorer classes. As long as proper air-space, and means of access to the yard or garden are provided, there does not seem to be any increased danger to health in this arrangement.

The modification of old houses to form flats is however a matter deserving careful supervision in the interest of health, for whatever class of tenants they are intended. Where no additional means of access to the upper flats is provided, difficulties are likely to arise in the provision of proper kitchens, sculleries, and water closets, and in the keeping and removal of house refuse. A greater amount of care is needed in such premises to maintain cleanliness, and to prevent nuisance arising both to the occupants, and to their neighbours.

Housing of the Working Classes.—The sufficiency of accommodation for the Working Classes has been brought to your notice on more than one occasion in previous years, and, in the early part of 1905, I made a report on the conditions existing here, and compared Hove with other towns, in some of which Part III. of the Act had been put into force. This report, which you considered very fully, showed that the present accommodation was not inadequate, that the existing houses were not in bad repair, nor badly drained, that in most of them the rooms were larger than is the case in those specially erected by the Councils of other towns, and that the open space about the houses was ample. It is true, as I have pointed out in past reports, that there are many crowded dwellings in Hove, and that this crowding, while it cannot be legally dealt with as "overcrowding," yet leads to impairment of the occupants' health ; but it does not yet appear that the solution of this problem will be found in the erection of houses by the Council. On these grounds you decided that there was no necessity to recommend the Council to take any action in the matter.

HOUSES ERECTED.

Year.	Total.	Hove Parish.	Aldrington Parish.
1899	251	172	79
1900	251	156	95
1901	170	80	90
1902	227	96	131
1903	179	57	122
1904	155	82	73
1905	171	78	93

Cleanliness of Streets, Yards, etc.—The Streets are scavenged by the Council's employés twice, and sometimes three times a week. Acting under Section 50 of the Public Health Act, the Council issued a notice in 1901, which is still in force, requiring manure or other refuse matter to be removed from mews and stables at least once in every three days. This has proved of great benefit, and in spite of the large number of stables in the Borough, few complaints are received.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.—The Registrar-General estimated the population of Hove at the middle of 1905 as 40,169, which may be divided into parishes, thus:—Hove, 31,286, Aldrington, 8,883. Considering the number of houses erected between the beginning of 1901 and the end of 1904, which is 731, an estimated increase of 3,634 persons since the census was taken, seems likely to be fairly correct.

Births.—The registered births were 674; males, 341, females, 333. This is equivalent to a rate of 16·7 per thousand of the population.

The birth-rate for the whole of England and Wales was 27·2. The number of births in Hove Parish was 437 (rate per thousand 13·9), in Aldrington parish, 237 (rate per thousand 26·7).

The increase by excess of births over deaths was, in Hove Parish 51, in Aldrington, 94; in all 145.

The number of illegitimate children registered was 29, equal to 4·3 per cent. of all births.

Hove has had a low birth-rate, lower than that of other Sussex towns for as many years as records exist, and the explanation is not difficult to find, since it depends on the character of the population. The Registrar-General has shown in his report for 1903, that a fair comparison of birth-rates should be based on the number of married and un-married women between the ages of 15 and 45 years. I am not able to give these for Hove, but there are other figures obtained from the census returns of 1901, which are striking, and very suggestive. If a comparison is made of the proportion of domestic servants to the total female population in different towns, it will be evident what a large number of women in Hove are thus engaged; these, together with the numerous persons who make Hove their residence late in life, will account for the excessively low birth-rate. The truth of this is exemplified by the adjoining district of Portslade, where the domestic servants are few, and the birth-rate high.

Apart from these circumstances however, it should be noted that the birth-rate in Hove has fallen from 21·5 in 1894 to 16·7 in 1905.

	Number of domestic servants per 1,000 of total females.	Birth-rates (1904).
Hove	268	17·4
Eastbourne	176	21·08
Brighton	129	23·5
Portslade	86	31·9

Deaths.—The total number of deaths registered in the Borough were 472. Among these were 12 persons who died in Public Institutions, to which they had come on account of illness or infirmity from districts outside of Hove. The deaths of Hove persons in Institutions outside the Borough numbered 59, viz. :—

In the Steyning Union Infirmary	29
,, Sussex County Hospital	15
,, Children's Hospital, Brighton	8
,, Throat Hospital, Brighton	1
,, County Asylum, Hellingly	1
,, Ventnor Consumption Hospital	1
,, Hove Borough Sanatorium	4

The whole number of deaths of Hove residents was therefore 519, of which 248 were males and 271 females.

The death-rate per thousand was 12·9, which is 0·1 above that of 1904. This will bear comparison with the death-rates of other small towns, and with the country districts.

Death-rates in England and Wales for 1905 :—

Hove	12·9
Whole of England and Wales	15·2
Rural ,, ,,	14·9
Great towns	15·7
Smaller towns	14·4

Infantile Mortality.—(deaths of children under 1 year of age).—A new table has been issued by the Local Government Board, and is added at the end of the report, giving the ages of the infants in weeks and months. It does not appear to me to bring out any facts calling for special remark.

The number of deaths of infants was 90; their was an increase in those from Congenital causes (prematurity and structural defects), and from Whooping Cough, fewer from Pneumonia and Bronchitis, and almost the same as last year from Diarrhœa and Enteritis.

The mortality rate per thousand births was 133.

Table.—Showing for 10 years the causes of death under 1 year of age.

Year.	Total.	Congenital.	Debility, &c.	Accident.	Enteritis.	Whooping Cough.	Tubercle.	Diarrhœa.	Bronchitis and Pneumonia.	Measles.	Diphtheria.	Others.
1896	84	14	16	—	1	1	2	28	15	1	—	6
1897	123	32	17	2	2	5	3	35	17	—	—	10
1898	91	17	12	—	3	1	6	24	14	1	1	12
1899	119	21	14	4	6	2	2	33	18	—	4	15
1900	84	23	6	2	5	—	1	16	16	—	—	15
1901	87	22	12	5	4	3	3	16	14	3	—	5
1902	72	12	11	2	2	2	2	23	11	—	—	7
1903	59	12	14	4	1	4	3	11	7	—	—	3
1904	91	13	23	1	1	—	3	30	13	3	1	3
1905	90	21	18	1	4	4	—	24	9	—	—	9

Deaths between 1 and 5 years. The causes include Tuberculosis and Pneumonia, as in 1904, and in addition Whooping Cough and Diphtheria. Seven deaths from Pneumonia under 1 year of age, and 7 between 1 and 5 years is a heavy toll on young life, and this is not over the average of past years.

Between 5 and 15 years the deaths are few. Influenza begins to show itself, and tuberculous disease is responsible for 3 deaths out of 12.

Between 15 and 25 years. Tuberculosis of the lungs appears as the only prominent cause.

In later years. The most frequent causes are Tuberculosis, 31, Cancer, 63, Bronchitis, 22, Alcoholic excess, 12, Bright's disease, 17, and Apoplexy, 31.

The large number of deaths from Cancer is startling, but is capable of a simple explanation, as will appear under that heading later.

Senile Mortality.—To old age alone 38 deaths were attributed; the total deaths over 60 years of age were 227, the details being shown below:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number of deaths among persons between 60 and 70 ...	43	37	80
" " 70 and 80 ...	32	51	83
" " 80 and 90 ...	28	30	58
" " over 90 ...	1	5	6
	104	123	227

The percentage of the deaths over **65** years of age to the total deaths was 36·8, the average for the previous 9 years being 35·4.

Zymotic Mortality (including Small-Pox, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Measles, Whooping Cough, Enteric Fever and Diarrhœa).

The aggregate deaths from these causes were 46, of which 28 were from Diarrhœa.

ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1905.

Hove	1·14
Whole of England and Wales	1·52
Rural ,, ,,	1·09
Great towns	1·88
Smaller towns	1·50

TABLE SHOWING DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES DURING PAST YEARS.

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Measles.	Diarrhœa.	Small Pox.	Enteric Fever.	Total.	Death rate.
1896	—	3	1	1	23	1	7	36	1·1
1897	1	13	5	14	28	—	5	66	2·0
1898	1	35	2	1	24	—	7	70	2·0
1899	2	34	5	1	38	—	8	88	2·5
1900	3	3	4	—	22	—	4	36	1·0
1901	2	6	6	10	24	—	3	51	1·4
1902	2	3	3	2	31	—	4	45	1·2
1903	—	2	5	—	19	—	1	27	0·7
1904	1	2	1	7	36	—	3	50	1·27
1905	—	6	12	—	28	—	—	46	1·14

There was an increase in the deaths from Diphtheria (6) and from Whooping Cough (12). The comparatively large number of deaths from Diphtheria was not due to an increase in the cases, nor to a general severity in the type, but rather to special features of the individual cases, in 2 of which tracheotomy was performed, while the other 4 died from heart failure.

The deaths from Whooping Cough are the most for many years. The association with Measles which has been remarked by many observers appears again, but with this difference, that in previous years of severity, the two diseases have occurred together, or in close succession, but on this occasion the Measles outbreak was in the spring of 1904, and the deaths from Whooping Cough, though most frequent in the 1st quarter, continued until the 3rd quarter of 1905.

The deaths from Diarrhœa are again more than they should be, seeing that the summer was not unusually hot and dry. The distribution of the deaths is curious. In 1905 the N.E. part of Aldrington suffered most, in other years the incidence has fallen on other districts. I am not able to offer any explanation of this fact.

Tuberculosis.—There were 41 deaths from Tubercle of the lungs, 4 from Tubercle of the brain only, and 3 from other forms. The death-rate per thousand living keeps very nearly the same every year, though several of the deaths are of visitors. As far as my enquiries show, 12 of the 41 were known to be ill when they came to Hove.

PHTHISIS DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 LIVING.

	Population.	Number of Deaths.	Death-rate.	Known to be visitors.
1895	30,780	25	0 81	—
1896	31,615	26	0·82	—
1897	32,580	30	0·92	—
1898	33,760	31	0·92	—
1899	35,080	25	0·71	—
1900	35,900	43	1·2	—
1901	36,750	47	1·3	12
1902	37,593	42	1·1	6
1903	38,446	35	0·91	5
1904	39,305	36	0·91	10
1905	40,169	41	1·02	12

As is usually the case with Phthisis, deaths were most frequent at the time of life when the individual should be of most active use to the community, *i.e.*, from 25 to 55 years.

The ages at death were as follows :—

	Under 5 years.	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	over 55
Males	1	—	1	7	9	3	1
Females	2	3	7	2	3	6	3
	3	3	8	9	12	9	3

On referring to the record which is kept of houses where Tuberculosis patients are known to have lived, or have died, I find that in nine of the houses concerned during 1905, previous deaths have occurred. There was, however, no evidence that the cause of the disease existed in the house itself, or its surroundings, as a more likely explanation was found in each instance, *e.g.*, three of those who died had recently nursed near relatives suffering from the disease.

Two illustrations of obscure ways in which Tuberculosis may be acquired came to my notice during the year, the first being that of a woman engaged in domestic service ; she occupied the same bed as a previous servant who had left on account of being consumptive, and nothing had been done to purify the mattress or pillows. The second was that of a poor woman who had been in such straitened circumstances before her death that she had parted with nearly all her bedding, which was undoubtedly infected.

The possible danger to those engaged in re-making bedding, and the risk from sleeping on second-hand beds and pillows seems to me to be a real one ; and I think the offer should be made to those who deal in such articles to disinfect free of charge anything infected in this way.

In the case of death of Consumptive persons, and whenever a change of residence is known, disinfection is done by the Sanitary Department free of charge ; in most instances, the offer to do this is gladly accepted. By this means, any possible risk to succeeding tenants is destroyed.

Medical practitioners are invited to notify cases of Phthisis to the M. O. H., whenever the patients are willing. After receiving a notification, unless a wish to the contrary is expressed, a visit is paid to the house, and a copy of the precautions to be observed is left and explained. The interest which such cases arouse, and the benefit which may be gained from friendly help, has been brought more prominently before the members of the District Visitors' Union, and of the Women's Health Society, and it is hoped that, through them, a more complete control of Consumptive persons in the poorer parts of the town may be obtained. During 1905, 26 notifications were received, and several cases were supplied with pocket spittoons, and paper handkerchiefs.

From the Report on the Laboratory, it will be seen that 89 specimens of sputum were examined, in 32 of which the bacillus of Tubercle was found. The swarms of Tubercle bacilli which exist in even minute quantities of expectoration, forming in some instances almost half of the mass, and each measuring only one-five thousandth of an inch in length, should be an ever-recurring reminder of the danger from careless spitting, which cannot be too much impressed upon the friends of those who are ill.

Cancer.—There were 63 deaths attributed to Cancer and other forms of malignant disease. The number of these deaths shows considerable variation from year to year, a fact which in itself suggests that many are due not to local circumstances, but to accidental sources. For some localities in which persons remain for the greater part of their lives, it is possible to estimate the local incidence of disease, but this becomes of little value when applied to a population such as that of Hove, and for a disease such as Cancer, which is usually of long duration, and in the case of which it will therefore often happen that the place of residence at death is not that where the disease originated. If allowance is made for the age distribution of persons in Hove, the number of deaths from Cancer in one year, at the rate which obtains for all England, should be 35. The average of the last 6 years is 47; and enquiries made in past years have shown that at least one third of Cancer deaths are among visitors, who came here on account of their health. So that there does not appear to be any unusual incidence of malignant disease in this locality.

Alcoholic Excess and Venereal Disease.—For obvious reasons these causes appear very rarely on death certificates, and possibly this is why they have not attracted as much attention as their influence upon the Public Health deserves. Nevertheless it is probable that these two causes produce more ill-health, if not more deaths, than any which figure prominently in the death-returns, and it cannot be questioned that both are preventable. Is it not time that some effort was made for the sake of the National health, to minimise these evils?

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The notifications of infectious disease were slightly in excess of last year: the greatest increase being in those of Erysipelas.

No. of Notifications of Disease of Past Years.

Year.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.	Typhoid Fever.	Erysipelas.	Small-pox.	Puerperal Fever.
1894	45	15	19	29		
1895	67	49	21	31		
1896	40	35	27	28	3	1
1897	45	58	11	19		4
1898	80	233	22	25		1
1899	278	245	32	9		
1900	173	71	27	23		1
1901	115	148	30	15	3	2
1902	51	52	25	21		1
1903	27	36	8	5	1	
1904	38	39	9	11		
1905	49	35	11	18		

Of the Scarlet Fever patients 14, and of Diphtheria patients 6 were nursed at home, with no spread of infection in any instance. The percentage removed to Hospital was for Scarlet Fever 71, for Diphtheria 82.

The examinations made of premises where infectious cases occur have shown about the usual percentage of defects.

TABLE SHOWING CONDITION OF HOUSES WHERE INFECTIOUS DISEASES OCCURRED.

Disease.	Houses examined.	Number of grave defects of Drainage.	Number of slight defects of Drainage.	Houses dirty or overcrowded.	Houses in good condition.
Scarlet Fever	41	3	1	2	35
Diphtheria	31	3	3	1	24
Enteric Fever	11	3	—	—	8
Erysipelas	18	—	2	1	15

Small Pox.—No case occurred.

Scarlet Fever.—The cases were scattered all through the year, and presented little known association with each other. One group of cases appeared to have a focus at a school, but the "missed" case from which they originated remained unknown. Five cases were only recognised after being ill for a week or more, and it was remarkable how little harm seemed to have occurred, even to their close associates. In 3 instances the disease was contracted elsewhere.

Diphtheria.—There was one interval of four months with only one case, and that a child who had recently come to Hove; and then cases occurred in different parts of the town, apparently quite independent of one another.

The origin of these sporadic cases is a puzzle: there appears to be no one in close association, who has been ill or is even likely to have carried the disease. We have yet to learn in what other ways than by infection the disease may arise.

Enteric Fever.—Of the 11 cases notified, 6 proved to be not really Enteric Fever. To some of these the Widal test had been applied, and a positive result obtained, but I have no doubt that the conclusion was incorrect: the fault seemed to depend on the bacilli with which the test was made, for when another culture was used at a later period, the result was negative. The difficulties of diagnosing this disease in its early stages are so great, and the importance of taking proper precautions in its management so pressing, that it is not surprising that some cases are wrongly notified; it is much preferable that they should be considered as Enteric, than that one actual case should be overlooked. The figures of the last six years will be of interest.

Enteric Fever.

	Notifications.	Actual Cases.
1900	27	25
1901	30	25
1902	25	20
1903	8	6
1904	9	6
1905	11	5

I was not able to ascertain the source of the illness with certainty in any of the cases during 1905.

Erysipelas.—Enquiries were made at the premises, and the drains were examined; in only 2 of the 18 were even slight defects found. The instances of Erysipelas arising from bad drains are few, compared with what they used to be. More frequent causes are exposure to wind, and the accidental inoculation of a wound by some septic matter. One patient who could not get proper attention at home, was removed to the Borough Sanatorium.

Puerperal Fever.—There were no cases notified.

General Methods of Disinfection.—The usual method of Disinfecting is for the inspectors to spray the ceiling, walls, floor, and contents of a room with a 2°/₀ solution of Formalin, the occupier then has the room thoroughly cleaned, for which purpose Carbolic soap and disinfectant solution are supplied gratis at the Town Hall. Fumigation by Formalin tablets is sometimes substituted for the spray. Bedding, clothes, and similar articles are treated by current steam or destroyed.

The number of rooms disinfected after non-notifiable diseases increases. The more frequent and reasonable use of disinfectants, and their more reliable bactericidal power, together with the adoption of non-absorbent wall-papers, and floor coverings, ought to render dwellings more healthy than they used to be.

The number of rooms disinfected after notifiable disease was 150; after non-notifiable diseases 90, of which 62 were in houses occupied by Consumptive persons.

An arrangement has been entered into with the Southwick Urban District Council to disinfect bedding &c., from houses in their district. During the year 26 journeys were made, and 180 articles disinfected at a charge of £20 19s. 0d. Disinfection has also been undertaken for other outlying districts; in all 21 journeys have been made for them, and 186 articles steamed at a charge of £16 4s. 7d.

From houses within the Borough of Hove, 2,647 articles were removed, involving 202 journeys with the vans.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

Places under special supervision.—There is only one cow-shed in the Borough; no common lodging-house, and no slaughter-house.

One Margarine factory has been registered during the year; this appears to be well arranged, and is not likely to cause any nuisance.

Dairies and Milk Shops.—There are 31 Dairies, in which a high standard of cleanliness is maintained; there are also on the register 24 shops where small quantities of milk are sold, in conjunction with other goods.

Factory and Workshop Act.—Under this Act, both Factories and Workshops are specially supervised by the Sanitary Department of the Borough.

Workshops and Workshop Laundries.—There is a nett increase of 20 workshops, compared with the number on the Register last year; three of these being notified to the Department by H.M. Inspector. Four cases of over-crowding were discovered; two of these cases occurred on premises where other workrooms were in use, it being only a matter of removing the employées from one room to another to abate the over-crowding; in the other two cases, additional rooms were provided. The other defects, with one exception (drain requiring re-construction), were not of a serious nature.

There are 23 workshop laundries in the Borough, and only one notice was served in connection with these premises, on account of the employées being without separate W.C. accommodation. There were 27 of these premises on the Register last year; some have discontinued business, others have started.

Domestic Workshops and Domestic Laundries.—Under these headings are included those premises in which the persons employed are members of the same family. There are 152 entries of the former, and 21 of the latter, which are kept in a separate register. There were seven notices served for nuisances found to exist on these premises (which are not included in Table 1); five were for cleansing and distempering, and two were for defective drains.

Workplaces.—Under this heading are included the kitchens of 24 hotels, restaurants, and dining rooms; these when inspected were found to be in a satisfactory sanitary condition.

Bakehouses.—There are 15 under-ground, and 12 above-ground bakehouses. The arrangement that has existed for some years past of sending a circular letter in the months of April and October, to cleanse and distemper, has again been done this year, and has in all instances been complied with.

Home Work.—There are 30 employers that give out work to be done in the homes of the out-workers. These homes have been inspected, and the work was found to be done under proper sanitary conditions, with two exceptions; in one a defective W.C. was found, and the other, used for boot repairing, was in a dirty state.

The forms for these returns which have to be made in February and August, are left with the employers, so that there is no excuse for failing to make the returns at the proper time, but in spite of these precautions, 13 employers failed to send the returns, until a letter was sent calling their attention to this omission.

A new "Home Work Order" made in August, 1905, extends the regulations respecting Home Work to:—

> The making of covers for, and the covering, finishing, altering, or repairing of, umbrellas, sunshades, parasols, and articles of a similar character, and any work incidental thereto;

The making of paper bags and of paper boxes;

Brush-making; and

The making of stuffed dolls.

We do not know of any work of this kind being done in the Town. My attention was called to the possibility of Consumption spreading through the re-making of mattresses, and the scattering of dust from them. I find that some new kinds of carding machines are on the market, which carry away the dust, and prevent risk to those working them.

THE FOLLOWING TABLES GIVE THE STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR:—

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES AND HOME WORK.

1.—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises.	Number of	
	Inspections.	Written Notices.
Factories ... ... (Including Factory Laundries).	35	5
Workshops ... ... (Including Workshop Laundries and Bakehouses).	403	20
Workplaces	24	—
Homeworkers' Premises	49	2
Total	511	27

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.	
	Found.	Remedied.
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*		
Want of Cleanliness	13	13
Want of Ventilation	1	1
Overcrowding	4	4
Want of drainage of floors	—	—
Other Nuisances	6	6
†Sanitary accommodation — insufficient	1	1
†Sanitary accommodation — unsuitable or defective ...	5	5
†Sanitary accommodation — not separate for sexes ...	1	1
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—		
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ...	Nil.	
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)	Nil.	
Failure as regards lists of outworkers (s. 107)	13	13
Giving out work to be done in premises which are — unwholesome (s. 108)...	Nil.	
Giving out work to be done in premises which are — infected (s. 110) ...	Nil.	
Allowing wearing apparel to be made in premises infected by scarlet fever or smallpox (s. 109)	Nil.	
Other offences	Nil.	
Total	44	44

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* Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory Act as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

† Section 22 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, has been adopted by the Hove Council; the standard of sufficiency and suitability of sanitary convenience accommodation for factories and workshops is determined by the Sanitary Accommodation Order of 1902.

3.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.	
Matters notified to H.M. Inspectors of Factories :—		
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133)	27	
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspectors as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory Act (s. 5): Notified by H.M. Inspectors ...	1	
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspectors as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory Act (s. 5): Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspectors	1	
Other	Nil.	
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—		
Certificates granted during the year	Nil.	
In use at the end of the year	15	
Homework :—		
Lists of Outworkers (s. 107) :—	Number of	
	Lists.	Outworkers.
Lists received	58	133
Addresses of outworkers forwarded to other Authorities ...	73	
Addresses of outworkers received from other Authorities ...	13	
Homework in unwholesome or infected premises :—	Wearing Apparel.	Other
Notices prohibiting homework in unwholesome premises (s. 108)	Nil.	Nil.
Cases of infectious disease notified in homeworkers' premises	—	
Orders prohibiting homework in infected premises (s. 110)	—	
Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year	204	
Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bakehouses, may be enumerated here.: Workshop Laundries	23	
„ Bakehouses	27	
Total number of workshops on Register...	254	

Statistics of Inspections, Nuisances remedied, &c.—The following are the particulars of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1905 :—

Number of	premises visited on house to house inspection ...	4141
,,	houses that have been inspected from complaints and other causes	337
,,	complaints attended to	1223
,,	premises inspected after complaint, and no nuisance found	144
,,	complaints referred to the Surveyor	17
,,	warning and verbal notices issued for the abatement of nuisances	1131
,,	statutory notices issued	206
,,	letters sent to Head Teachers and Managers of Schools	84
,,	letters sent to Public Librarians	56
,,	visits to houses in which London holiday children are received	186
,,	visits to provision shops	1247
,,	visits to dairies, cowstalls, and milkshops	244
,,	inspections of houses let in lodgings	9

The undermentioned works have been carried out during the year, being the result of notices issued :—

Number of	drains reconstructed during the year (total) ...	159
,,	drains reconstructed and ventilated, which were defective and unventilated	57
,,	insufficiently ventilated drains, which were provided with 4in. pipes	83
,,	drains repaired, defective traps removed, and proper traps substituted	218
,,	defective water closets repaired, cleansed, or other apparatus provided	367
,,	container closets abolished	44
,,	closets with defective water supply remedied ...	222
,,	soil pipes found inside the house and defective, placed outside the house and properly ventilated	19
,,	defective soil pipes and ventilating pipes remedied	157
,,	defective waste pipes and sinks made to discharge in the outer air	122

Number of defective sinks replaced by new glazed stoneware sinks	86
,, yards and wash-houses re-paved or repaired ...	73
,, houses which have been cleansed and whitewashed	247
,, houses overcrowded	29
,, accumulations of manure and other refuse removed	31
,, animal nuisances abated	19
,, smoke nuisances abated	2
,, half-hourly smoke observations	1
,, insufficient ashpits and dustbins remedied ...	222
,, defective roofs and walls remedied	34
,, yards and areas cleansed	26
,, rain-water pipes defective or connected to drain or soil pipe, with upper ends opening near windows; repaired or disconnected, and made to discharge over properly trapped gullies	90
,, cesspools emptied	58
,, houses provided with a proper water supply ...	10
,, supply cisterns provided with covers	5
,, choked drains cleared and cleansed	75
,, premises having defective wooden flooring or staircases remedied	19
,, defective brick manure pits replaced by wire cages	6

THE SALE OF FOOD & DRUGS ACTS.

Two hundred samples were sent to the Analyst, of which 115 were milk, and 58 butter; those returned as adulterated were 9 milk, and 5 butter; the samples of other foods were genuine. The quality of the milk has been on the whole better than in recent years; none of the adulterated samples were much below the limit fixed by the Board of Agriculture, and no prosecution was undertaken.

There have been two matters of special interest during the year, the first was a circular letter from the Board of Agriculture which—

(*a*) recommended that before taking a summons against a milk-vendor (except when fraud was suspected), he should be asked if he could explain the occurrence, and

(*b*) stated that arrangements had been made for the examination of milk from farmers and dairymen at cheap rates.

The Sanitary Committee, after considering the letter, decided to call the attention of milk dealers to the latter clause, and were of opinion that with this additional assistance provided for them, there ought to be even less excuse than before for selling poor milk. The following resolution was passed and sent to the Board :—

> "That the Sanitary Committee being so fully convinced of the importance to the infantile population of keeping up the quality of milk, view with grave concern any action which will encourage the sale of milk below the standard of that already fixed by the Board of Agriculture on the 1st September, 1901."

The second matter of interest was the discovery of a fraud by the sale of margarine for "Country butter." It appears that certain persons have for several months been in the habit of calling at private houses, and offering to sell butter from country farms at a cheap rate. At first butter is sold, and then margarine is added to it, until the 'butter' becomes all margarine.

Two different vendors were summoned, and fined with costs, one £5 4s. 6d. and the other £6 5s. 6d.

BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY.

The following is a tabular statement of specimens examined during the past year.

List of Specimens Examined.

For Diphtheria—

Specimens sent by medical practitioners ...	76
Result: 16 were Diphtheria. 3 doubtful.	
From patients nursed at home before disinfection	13
From patients on admission to Sanatorium, and from the Staff	10
From patients in Sanatorium before discharge	73
From Scarlet Fever patients (results negative)	5

Taken by M.O.H. from persons associated with Diphtheria patients or suspected of having Diphtheria 30

Result: 9 showed Diphtheria bacilli.

For Enteric Fever—

Specimens of urine from convalescent patients 5

Specimens of blood for diagnosis 22

Phthisis—

Specimens of sputum 89

Result: positive 32.

Pleural fluid (positive)... 1

Other Specimens 4

Total 328

BOROUGH SANATORIUM.

The number of patients admitted was almost the same as in 1904, as is shown in the table below.

There has been no serious illness among the Staff.

TABLE SHOWING PATIENTS TREATED DURING 1905.

	In Hospital, Jan. 1st.	Admitted.	Died.	Discharged.	Remaining Dec. 31st.
Scarlet Fever	3	35	0	32	6
Diphtheria ...	4	27	3	26	2
Enteric ...	0	2	1	1	0
Erysipelas ...	0	1	0	1	0
Other Diseases	0	8	1	7	0
	7	73	5	67	8

Admitted from adjoining districts—

Scarlet Fever ... 1

Enteric Fever ... 1

The average number of patients per diem was 9·02.

The number of days each patient was under treatment averaged:—

		In case of recovery.		In case of death.
Scarlet Fever	...	57 days.	...	—
Diphtheria ...	...	38 ,,	...	1 day.
Enteric Fever	...	99 ,,	...	9 days.
Erysipelas ...	...	9 ,,	...	—
Other Diseases	...	16 ,,	...	7 days.

There were three deaths from Diphtheria, one death from Enteric Fever, and one from Acute Tuberculosis. The deaths from Diphtheria were Hove patients, the death from Enteric Fever was from Beeding, and the death from Tuberculosis was a native of Horsham on a visit to Hove.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I hope that this Report may be considered as showing a satisfactory state of the Public Health; and I wish to thank you for your constant kindness to myself, and to all the Staff, and for youi support in all matters affecting the health of the Borough.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

AUGUSTINE GRIFFITH.

Dated February 12*th*, 1906.

Table I.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1905 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
				Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.						
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1895	30,780	631	20·5	100	158	430	13·9	—	—	—	—	—
1896	31,615	654	20·6	84	128	391	12·3	—	—	—	—	—
1897	32,580	671	20·6	123	183	471	14·4	—	—	—	—	—
1898	33,760	672	19·9	92	136	442	13·0	—	—	—	—	—
1899	35,080	731	20·8	119	162	521	14·8	19	7	55	569	16·2
1900	35,900	663	18·7	81	126	477	13·2	15	5	40	512	14·2
1901	36,750	673	18·3	87	129	417	11·3	12	9	60	468	12·7
1902	37,593	657	17·5	72	109	486	12·9	19	12	49	523	13·9
1903	38,446	669	17·4	59	88	397	10·3	18	12	51	436	11·3
1904	39,305	687	17·4	91	132	457	11·6	24	16	64	505	12·8
Averages for years 1895-1904		670	19·17	91	135	449	12·77	—	—	—	—	—
1905	40,169	674	16·7	90	133	472	11·7	23	12	59	519	12·9

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Note.—The deaths included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

Table II.—VITAL STATISTICS OF SEPARATE LOCALITIES IN 1905 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Names of Localities.	Parish of Hove.				Parish of Aldrington.			
Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
	a	*b*	*c*	*d*	*a*	*b*	*c*	*d*
1899	28,980	—	452	79	6,100	—	112	40
1900	29,400	524	419	62	6,500	139	90	22
1901	29,810	507	360	59	6,940	166	104	25
1902	30,210	478	402	67	7,383	179	121	20
1903	30,570	464	338	40	7,876	205	98	19
1904	30,829	458	383	58	8,476	229	122	33
Averages of years 1899 to 1904	—	486	392	60	—	183	107	26
1905	31,286	437	386	49	8,883	237	133	41

Table III.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1905.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in Whole District.							No. of Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.	
Diphtheria	35	—	6	19	2	7	1	29
Erysipelas	18	—	—	—	3	13	2	1
Scarlet fever	49	—	6	35	3	5	—	35
Enteric fever	11	—	—	1	2	8	—	6
Totals	113	—	12	55	10	33	3	71